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Recovery Operations Anticipated at Montgomery Tomorrow

PITTSBURGH – The US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the towing industry will attempt to resume recovery operations at Montgomery Locks and Dam tomorrow, river conditions permitting. The towboat M/V Elizabeth M. and four of its six barges remain sunk on the dam. Monitoring of river condition and flow indicate that river conditions tomorrow morning should be favorable to begin the recovery of the barges sunk on the dam. A slight drop in the river level over the next several days may provide the needed window of opportunity on Friday or Saturday for salvage divers to safely put the rear lifting sling in place so that the towboat M/V Elizabeth M. can be raised.

The two barges that sank below the dam, at Mile 32.2 and Mile 33.6, have been removed. Only one other barge, from breakaways during high water earlier this year, remains to be recovered upstream of the dam at Pike Island Locks and Dam. This barge is not currently impacting navigation or lock and dam operation.